

Summary

1. Introductions & Backgrounds

Many participants briefly introduced themselves, sharing:

1. Their academic majors and extracurriculars (e.g., Glee Club, gymnastics, Octagon musical comedy group) .
 2. Dorms and residences lived in:
 - Dickson Hall, Risley, Eddy Street apartments, Algonquin Lodge cooperative, fraternities and sororities, and lake houses .
 3. Student jobs, including pot-washer, cocktail waitress, secretary for the Inter-Fraternity Council, and library desk worker.
 4. Unique family circumstances, including one participant's father enrolling at Cornell at age 48 and performing in the orchestra with his children.
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2. Campus Housing & Everyday Living

1. **Dorm life:**
 - Dickson 5/6, Donlon, and others are remembered fondly.
 - Phillips House was described as cold, cramped, unheated, with windows required to stay open even in winter.
 2. **Off-campus and shared housing:**
 - Eddy Street apartments, Zeta Psi fraternity on Stewart Ave, and cooperative living at Algonquin Lodge formed major parts of students' lives.
 3. **Risley Residential College:**
 - A major hub of arts and theater, fully student-run, with its own performances, medieval festivals, and even a rescued movie-theater's seats transported by truck and installed in their theater space .
 - The Risley dining hall became popular due to a creative, talented chef recruited from Cornell Law School dining.
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3. Campus Communication & Social Life

1. **Pre-digital communication:**
 - Students relied on radio (WVBR), posters, "The Sun," word-of-mouth, and crowded tables in Willard Straight Hall for news and events.
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2. **Willard Straight Hall:**

- Remembered as a bustling hub for student activities before its modern redesign; participants described the layout and social rhythms of the building .
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4. Music & Concerts at Cornell (Major Topic)

This was the richest and longest part of their shared reminiscences.

4.1 Major Artists Seen in Cornell Venues

Participants recalled seeing or hearing:

1. Peter, Paul & Mary (Bailey Hall & Barton Hall), including discussions afterward with the artists.
2. Grateful Dead, in a tiny gym in 1970 before they became widely known; attendees were struck by the long-haired crowd and intimate setting.
3. Ravi Shankar, whose Bailey Hall concert was described as transformative and culturally eye-opening,
4. Janis Joplin, “the most fantastic concert,” remembered for its electric atmosphere, her intoxication, and the crowd response.
5. Simon & Garfunkel, Tina Turner, Melanie, Joan Baez, and others, mentioned with vivid anecdotes about performance style, crowd energy, or political contexts (e.g., anti-war events).

4.2 Local & Regional Acts

- Regular appearances by Boffalongo (eventually King Harvest of “Dancing in the Moonlight” fame), Big Daddy and the Dukes, and bar-band circuit venues near the waterfront were popular student nightlife staples.
- The Warehouse nightclub hosted local bands and was a frequent hangout for students .

4.3 Campus Musical Groups

- Cornell Glee Club, Chorus, Sage Chapel Choir, Octagon, and Gilbert & Sullivan productions were cherished memories, with international tours and holiday performances like the midnight Christmas concert in Sage Chapel.

4.4 Record Collections & Popular Albums

Students recalled endlessly playing:

- Beatles albums (White Album, Magical Mystery Tour),
- Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Carole King’s Tapestry,

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- Creedence Clearwater Revival, initially misremembered as “Rolling on the River” before learning the title “Proud Mary.”
 - Bob Dylan, Firesign Theatre, and folk favorites like Tom Paxton, prompted by radio play on WVBR.
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5. Speakers, Events, and Cultural Life

1. Muhammad Ali visited and later went to a fraternity gathering where students met him up close; his size and presence made a strong impression.
 2. Bernadette Devlin, the controversial Irish activist, spoke on campus, with one participant accompanying her to her plane afterward.
 3. A prison troupe performed at the Statler—a memory only vaguely recalled by some participants.
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6. Work, Responsibilities, and Odd Jobs

Participants recalled:

- Pot-washing strikes after being told to mop floors (mass quitting at Kappa Alpha).
 - Serving meals in sorority houses, working at the Inter-Fraternity Council offices, and student jobs in libraries or dining halls.
 - Fraternity house social dynamics and their own role as RAs or officers in organizations.
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7. Personal Stories, Coincidences & Connections

- Serendipitous reconnections, such as two attendees discovering they attended the same high school, formed some of the lighthearted exchanges.